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Gompers And The President

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, accompanied by its executive council and a hundred trade-union leaders, presented to the President and to both Houses of Congress, a declaration of alleged grievances aris-

ing from administrative acts and from legislation. The eight hour law, it said, had been grievously and frequently violated, especially at Panama. Convict labor was still tolerated, immigration insufficiently restrained, and the Chinese exclusion law flagrantly violated. Equal rights were denied seamen, marine regulations were lax, to the detriment of labor, the people were not protected against monopoly in transportation, writs of injunction had been perverted "to attack and destroy personal freedom," the House Committee on Labor would not listen to the voice of labor, and the President had forbidden Government employees to petition Congress. The labor leaders had waited long, patiently, and in vain, for redress of these grievances, and if not now heard would "appeal to the conscience and the support ci our fellow-citizens.

The President's reply was prompt and to the point. If 'abor unions did not like the present anti-injunction bill they could defeat it. He had heard no arguments to make him think it should go further. It was absolutely necessary to have power of injunction lodged in the courts, and during his presidency it had not once been invoked by the Government against combinations of laborers, though it had been used a score of times against combinations of capitalists. He would not, however, hesitate to apply it against combinations of laborers, if he thought it necessary. As to the eight hour law at Panama, he found it difficult to believe that labor leaders had any kind of knowledge of the conditions in the case. Such a law, proper here, was entirely improper there, and by their agitation they had hampered the President in his efforts to get for them what he thought they ought to have at home. The number of Chinese in America had steadily decreased, and the whole scare that had been worked up on the subject was a pure chimera. The present or the proposed law would equally keep out every Chinaman of the coolie class. He was convinced this ought to be done, but he would do everything be could to encourage business and professional Chinese travellers and students to come. No one had any excuse for misunderstanding his policy. With regard to other immigration he thought a resolute effort should be made to keep out men of a standard of living so low that their competition would tend to reduce our own standard. Laws should be enacted to keep out all immigrants who do not show that they have the right stuff in them to enter into our life on terms of decent equality with our own citizens. With regard to petitions by Government employees, they should, he said, pass through their heads of departments. That was a matter of simple discipline. It had nothing whatever to do with the citizen's right of petilon. Speaker Cannon in his reply to the delegation, confined himself almost entirely to their criticism of the composition of the Committee on Labor. Mr. Frye, President pro tem, of the Senate, received the document without comment. Mr. Gompers is said to have expressed dissatisfaction with the reception of the declaration and to have announced that the Federation "will enter the field of politics and urge organized labor to elect men of their own choosing." Probably nothing would exercise a more sobering effect on labor leaders or on those who oppose them, than the assumption by those leaders of political responsibili-

Liquor Laws And Public Interest

Much concern is felt at present, by a large element of the comnumber of saloons in the Terri- Will build you a home in any part of BOLLERS COOLERS TROY munity over the large increase in tory, and the real or apparent increase in drinking and drunkenness that has followed the passage

of the new liquor law by the last legislature. That the number of caloons, including under that term all places licensed to sell intoxcating liquor, has increased, there can be no doubt. Whether the has just shown in The London Times amount of drinking and drunkenness has increased, is not so certain, as exact statistics either under the old law or the new, were not kept and from the nature of the case could not be. The number of places paying federal liquor tax has not greatly increased, and there seems much to indicate that illicit making and selling has greatly decreased. The term "swipes" so frequent in all colloquial expression in the islands not so very long ago has almost fallen into disuse, and for the reason that the thing itself has fallen into disuse. However, it may be that drinking and drunkenness has increased.

But whether drinking and drunkenness have increased or not they are sufficiently prevalent, and have been for years, to cause the most serious concern to all who have the welfare of the Territory at heart. That concern is being aroused, not only in Honolulu but throughout the Territory, is a most hopeful sign. At the meeting of the Evan- deficit on that account, for it marks, gelical Associations of each of the other islands, saloons and the drink habit have received more sreious and earnest attention than has been given them before, at these gatherings for a long time. The matter has received the attention of grand juries and boards of supervisors, and sheriffs in all the counties. There has been more or less ! of an awakening in every district and community in which effort has been made to introduce the saloon where it had not existed before.

These things are hopeful. They are the encouraging features of been given the people of the Territory, the situation to everyone who wishes well to this Territory and the now that the responsibility has been

As is not unnatural the first result of the observation of the in- ate tocalities, is, in some degree, put crease in the number of saloons, has been to arouse a feeling of opposition to the new law. There are some who want to go back to the old, when the issuance of a license was within the capricious power of the executive, to grant or withhold. It is to be hoped this will not ly it may be, but in the end, righteous be done. The new law, very likely needs radical changes, but it has sentiment shall be felt and make itself introduced the vital principle of giving the peolpe of the locality af- felt. fected, some say agout the matter. It may not have given them the right as fully as it ought to give it, but it has given it. To place the discretion, and hence the responsibility, somewhere else than with the people themselves, is a step backward. It was not until the responsibility was placed directly with the people of each locality to be affected, that any wide or general interest in this most important subject was aroused. So much can at least be credited to the new law er its effects.

A Bishop of Peterborough once said that he would rather see England free than sober. The thought he had was that England free would eventually become sober; but soberness enforced by outside pressure, instead of by the free will of the people, had no worthy moral character in it, and could neither bring about freedom, or itself perpetuate sobriety. The facts show that as England becomes free, as the people gradually come to take a larger share in the administration of their country that national self-government brings with it personal self-government. For the last six years, as Dr. Dawson Burns

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there has been a steady, progressive ing for the whole period to \$110,000,000. The decrease in 1905 over 1904 alone was \$25,000,000. It is said that some of the largest brewing companies are perilously near bankruptcy, with diminishing sales in spite of the increase of population, though Dr. Burns calculates that the total expenditure of the United Kingdom for alcoholic drinks, distilled and fermented, was last year \$820,000,000. This would seem to give a large margin for further reduction. Excise receipts have fallen off by nearly \$20,000,000, but no Chancellor of the Exchequer will regret a as the detailed analysis shows, amelia ration especially among the poorer classes, and is paralleled, not unnaturally, by the increase in the same quar ters of savings bank deposits.

The inference from this, and from every similar example, of which the course of human progress is full, that now that freedom in this matter has placed on them, now that the presence or absence of saloons in their immediupon the people themselves, it is incvitable that they will give it their atention, that the evils of drink will be considered, and that in the end, slow-

Let there be any degree of amendment of the liquor law that may seem necessary to meet conditions, but let that the people themselves in their several localities, shall have both power and responsibility in the matter.

The following interesting paragraph ppeared in the Advertiser of April 28; "It is from Waianae, by the way, that charges came to the Board of Superisors, immediately after they had whitewashed the Honolulu end of the police department, against Deputy Sheriff C. J. Holt and Policeman Joe Kupihea. These charges were signed by twenty-seven voters of Wainnas, ness is rife among policemen, that im-

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morality of other kinds prevails, and that prisoners are beaten and abused by the police. Holt and Kupihea are Doesn't want to risk the mistakes that named specifically. The charges were All tailors make and wants to wear the referred to a committee of the Board Best tailoring on earth, then Alfred of Supervisors and doubtless will take Benjamin & Co.'s Clothing is the usual course. What that is the community knows very well."

The story of landing marines from arships to preserve order in Hawall, which was published in the Western Pacific Herald, was pure invention. It would be interesting to know whether it was invented in Fiji or whether it really went over the cable.

If Alexander Young's Oakland restence was damaged \$2,500, it would look as though the stories of merely there be no surrender of the principle trifling damage in Oakland had been censored by a promotion committee.

NEW MAPS TO BE MADE.

"Ah, war is an awful thing," sighed

he croaker. "Oh, I don't know," replied the smil-

ig individual 'You don't mean to say you approve

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